

# MAY

at the

## CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

### MAY MEETINGS

(For Members and Their Guests)

DATES: Wednesday evening May 12 and  
Thursday evening May 13.

TIME: 8:00 p.m.

PLACE: May Treat Morrison Auditorium

SPEAKER: Joseph A. Robinson

SUBJECT: "SAMARKAND AND CENTRAL  
ASIA"

In this fast shrinking world, many of us still have only vague and uneven impressions of what lies beyond the walls of the Kremlin and the legendary halls of the Hermitage. It will be our singular boon in having Mr. Robinson share with us in words and pictures his recent experiences in perhaps the least-known and under-appreciated part of the USSR — the ancient lands of Central Asia.

As part of a 14,000 mile second visit to Russia, he traveled last summer from the Pacific by way of Siberia to visit the Republics which lie across the Himalayan range from China, India, Afghanistan and Iran. Here we will see the cities which served as major links in the Silk Road to China and the Gold Road to India — cities which measure their history in thousands of years — Samarkand, Tamerlane's "Pearl of the Orient," celebrating the 2500 years since its founding; Bukhara with its centuries-old Tower of Death; Tashkent, rising Phoenix-like from the ruins of an April earthquake more disastrous than San Francisco's of 1906.

Beyond the historical interest of these modern-day cities descended from the Arabian Nights, Mr. Robinson shares his appreciation for the diversity of language, culture, tradition and dress which contribute to the rich fabric (and many of the problems) of the Soviet Union.

A management consultant, he has had a long time interest in travel and photography. This, coupled with both keen eyes and ears on the passing scene,

will give his listeners some new perspectives on this country that occupies one-sixth of the world's populated area.

Two consecutive meetings as indicated and points of ingress to the Academy are the main entrance, Cowell Hall, and the rear planetarium entrance off Middle Drive. Your 1971 membership card is your admission.

### MORRISON PLANETARIUM

(April 29 through June 20):

"A GRAND TOUR OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM." U.S. spacecraft have already explored Mars, Venus and the Moon. Later missions to Mercury, Jupiter and the asteroid belt will blaze the way to eventual Grand Tour excursions to the outer planets—Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. This show is a preview of those great adventures presented in the comfort of our own Theatre of the Stars.

Performances daily at two with evening shows, Wednesday through Sunday, at eight. Extra performances Saturdays, Sundays and holidays at 3:30. Closed Monday and Tuesday nights. Admission: \$1.00 for adults with half-price for students with student body card and those under 16, and Armed Forces personnel.

### AND ANOTHER SPECIAL ADDED ATTRACTION

PLACE: Morrison Planetarium.

DATES: Saturday and Sunday evenings, May 22-23, at 8:00 p.m.

EVENT: "STARSONG", an original conception by Jack Sweeny with music performed live in concert by talented singers and score played by Bay Area musicians on organ, piano and guitar. This will be the premier performance of Mr. Sweeny's suite devoted to "looking into space." Visual projections on the great dome of the planetarium complement this special work. Tickets priced at \$2 are available by mail or by a visit or telephone call to the planetarium office (221-5100).

### SPECIAL EXHIBITS

"THE FACES OF AFRICA," enlarged photographic portraits in color of contemporary Africans, camera-caught by Dr. Edward S. Ross during five safaris to this fascinating continent. The display is adjacent to the Hohfeld Hall of Space Science.

"BEAUTY OF THE EARTH", art and handcraft by Californians, celebrating the magnificence of this orb on which we live. Lower Gallery, Cowell Hall, through May 23.

## NEWS and NOTES . . . . .

SINCE THE WHOLE WORLD beckons to a scientific collector-photographer-observer, it is difficult to keep down the urge to go, go, go! Karl Switak, Supervising Herpetologist for Steinhart Aquarium, is an enviable example of how nicely aggressive one can be in pursuing such adventures, a beautiful way of combining business and pleasure. His seven-month leave-of-absence to various parts of the world was reported in the April 1970 NEWSLETTER. Now — again on his own time and with his own money — he has recently experienced a six-week sojourn to more exotic places.

In late January he 'cut out' to Singapore where he joined forces with George Mendenhall, a shell collector-buyer-wholesaler (he supplies merchandise for some of our sales desks). The pair collected and photographed for three weeks in Java, Celebes and Bali after which Mr. Mendenhall flew to San Francisco carrying with him some 30 live specimens for Steinhart, a combination of lizards, toads, frogs and fish.

Karl continued his journey to Australia (New South Wales and Northern Queensland) and to New Guinea, again collecting, photographing as well as skin-diving. He spent three additional weeks there during which he garnered and air-shipped some 60 more reptiles and amphibians for the display cases in Steinhart. We are all richer for Karl's inclination to get-up-and-git!

### RECENT SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATION OF THE CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

#### PROCEEDINGS

"Festschrift for George Sprague Myers (In Honor of His Sixty-Fifth Birthday)". Various authors. Volume XXXVII, Numbers 1 through 23 inclusive. December 31, 1970.  
\$10.00

MISCELLANEA. The Jack Wolfram Foundation of Lansing, Michigan has made a grant to the Academy in the amount of \$2,500 which will make possible the purchase of an unusually fine specimen of Wolframite crystals that will eventually go on display. The specimen has a base of Arsenopyrite measuring seven by eight inches and is from the Penasqueira Mine in Portugal. . . . Dr. William E. Sievers, Program Director for Systematic Biology for the National Science Foundation, visited the Academy during the first week of April. . . . Cur-



rently, a film crew is doing extensive photographing in various localities of Baja California in anticipation of a new Academy-produced documentary on this ever-intriguing area. . . . Two young ladies were the recipients of the California Academy of Sciences Award made in conjunction with the recent San Francisco Bay Area Science Fair. They are Dina Jane Griffith, age 13, Junior Division, with a project titled "When Do Crickets Chirp?", and Margaret I. Siri, 18, Senior Division, with "A Population Survey of the Intertidal Invertebrates of San Francisco Bay."

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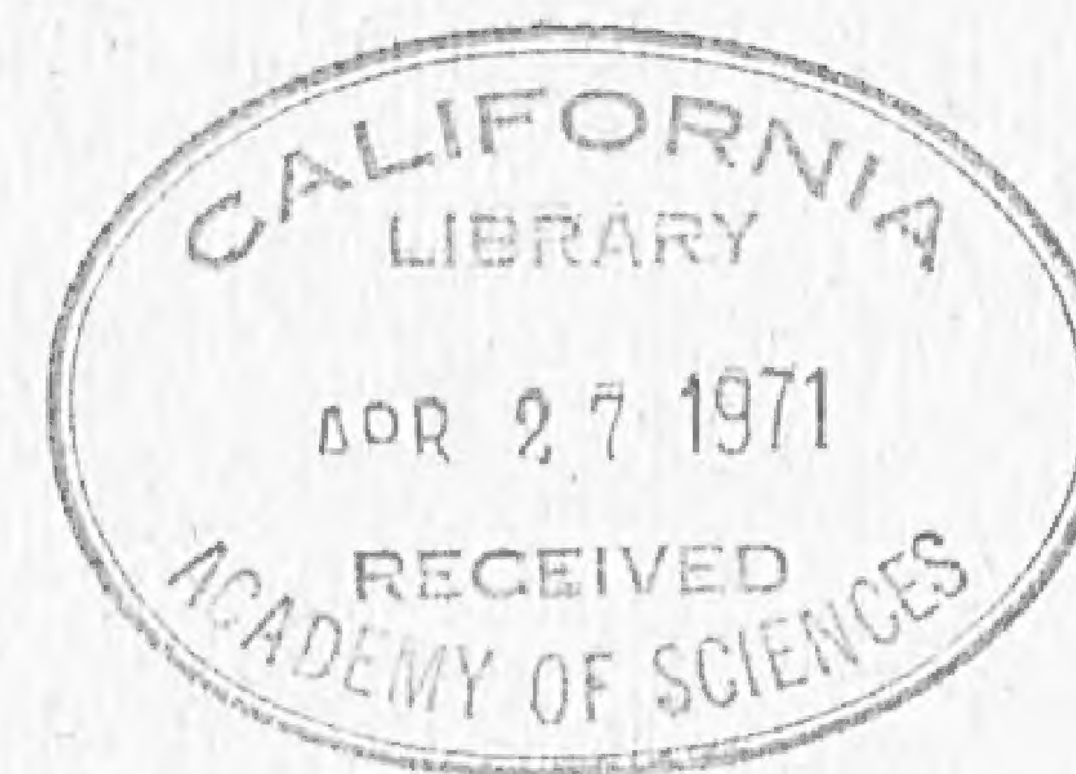
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